

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 A cosmetic compact comprising:

a cover member;

a base member;

first means including a cover spring hingedly connecting said members together, said members having a closed position at which the members are in complete engagement causing the spring to be compressed, said members having an open position at which the spring expands causing the cover member to extend at approximately 90 degrees to said base member;

said cover member having latch means disposed oppositely to said first means;

said base member having latch engagement means disposed oppositely to said first means;

said latch means and latch engagement means being mutually engaged when the members are in closed position; when these means are disengaged, the spring expands and places the members in open position.

2. The compact of claim 1 wherein the latch means has at least one recess and the engagement means includes a latch pin actuated by a mechanism that moves the pin into engagement with said recess when the members are in closed position.

3. The compact of claim 2 wherein the mechanism moves the pin out of engagement with the recess when the members are in open position.

4. The compact of claim 3 wherein the latch means has first, second and third interconnected recesses.

5. The compact of claim 4 wherein during the process of moving the members into closed position, the mechanism moves the pin into the first and then into the second recess.

6. The compact of claim 5 wherein during the process of moving the members into open position, the mechanism moves the pin from the second recess into the third recess and then physically separates the pin from the third recess.